

work hard, have a family, pursue his passions and buy a home for his mother. He understood that in America, hard work could yield all of those things and began his career as a shipping clerk. He had hoped this job would allow him to marry his fiancé and earn enough money to make a down payment on a home for his mother. Between he and his brother's pay, they soon put a down payment on a house for their mother, but Primitivo wanted to earn his citizenship before marrying his bride-to-be.

There was nothing more that Primitivo wanted than to become an American Citizen, so he and his brother enrolled in English classes at Westport High School to meet the necessary qualifications for citizenship. It was in this class that Primitivo and his brother, Alfredo, would meet someone who would change their life forever, Mrs. Margaret Kindermann (now Margaret Kelso).

Fifty years ago, on November 15, 1967, Primitivo Garcia, and his brother Alfredo Garcia walked out of their night English class and heard a scream. They both realized that a woman was being accosted outside of their school and as Mrs. Kindermann recalled, Primitivo and Alfredo were not "going to let this happen." That night, both Garcia brothers would save their English teacher, Mrs. Kindermann, from impending doom. After rushing to their teacher's aide, the Garcia brothers immediately fought off the attackers, but one of the attackers drew a gun and shot Primitivo.

As Mrs. Kindermann recalls, she feared for her life and the life of her 5-month-old, unborn child. Primitivo's and Alfredo's bravery saved two lives that night, but tragically, Primitivo succumbed to his wounds three days later.

Primitivo Garcia would become the first local, Hispanic hero in Kansas City because of his benevolent act of sacrifice for his teacher and her unborn child. Former Missouri Governor Warren Hearnes declared Primitivo an honorary citizen of the state as well as declared December 1st to be Primitivo Garcia Day in Kansas City. Parks would later be named in honor of Primitivo's story, memorials dedicated to his legacy, but in 1992, Joe Arce, a local television reporter, did a two-part feature story that continued Primitivo's story.

It was this story that sparked community support within the Historic Westside neighborhood to urge the Kansas City, MO School Board to name their newly constructed West Magnet School as the Primitivo Garcia World Language School. A year after Mr. Arce's story, the school was named in Primitivo's honor.

It is through the actions of Alfredo and the sacrifice of his brother, Primitivo, that should remind us of our country's legacy of immigrant sacrifice in pursuit of the American Dream. Primitivo simply stood up for what he knew to be right, helping the helpless in their time of need. Primitivo's spirit and legacy will live on through our community's eternal willingness to commemorate this valiant act and I am honored to share his story with you today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt appreciation to Primitivo Garcia's family. I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to his family and community for sharing this great man with us, and to allow us to honor his legacy. He is, and will forever be, an inspiration to current and future generations.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, you see, tax reform is about giving hardworking Americans—of all walks of life—the confidence they need to make their dreams a reality.

So the question that needs to be asked is whether or not the current tax code—and all of its targeted credits—really increases people's paychecks. . . . Does it treat people fairly? Does it put American workers first? What about fostering economic growth, does it help to create more good-paying jobs?

Michigan is a great case study.

You see, I'm from the Motor City, where we're known for our blue collar work ethic. Our families come from humble beginnings. They get up every morning and go to work to make ends meet, and to build a better future for their kids. And we've persevered through some of the most serious economic death spirals. Take 2008, for example.

At that time, I was Senate Majority Leader in Michigan under the last administration, overseeing the only Republican branch of government. I saw firsthand how that administration pursued one targeted tax credits after another that favored one industry over the other. It was the classic example of the government picking winners and losers—and, as expected, it failed miserably.

As we see at the federal level today, in Michigan many of these targeted tax benefits were paid for by everyone else: in the form of tax increases. And not only did it fail to attract growth in emerging sectors as they hoped, but it caused our economy to tailspin.

Michigan quickly became the only state in the country experiencing zero economic growth. Per capita income went from one of the highest, to one of the lowest in a matter of just a few years.

By 2009, unemployment hit nearly 15 percent. (Neighboring states with more hospitable environments for job growth attracted our families and neighbors).

More than 800,000 people left our state. Just think about that. . . . We were the only state to lose population—and we would have lost even more had people been able to sell their homes.

But as the Senate Majority Leader of the only Republican branch of government, we didn't just say "no" to the government's failed policies, we offered solutions and loaded up the pipeline with legislation to help the newly-elected Republican legislature and Governor Rick Snyder get to work on day one.

What did we do? Exactly what we're doing here today: tax reform.

While balancing budgets, we found ways to lower rates on individuals. Reduced baseline rates for job creators, and eliminated the credits that favored certain industries over others. We created an environment that would grow the economy, and help families get ahead.

And sure enough, just two months after these reforms, job growth turned positive again in Michigan.

In 2017, Michigan is now a top 10 pro-business state, ranked 12th among all states for

overall business tax climate. Unemployment in Livingston County, in my district, is at 3.3 percent as of this September. And the comeback continues.

Detroit is re-emerging again as an economic powerhouse. The streets are alive with entrepreneurs and young people, who live downtown. The future looks great for the Comeback City.

You see, the moral of the story is that tax policy matters.

Getting tax reform done right means delivering real relief. I've seen it work in Michigan, and I know we can do it at a national level. It's not hard. It's about allowing people to keep more of what is rightfully theirs. It's about freeing up more capital to create more jobs, increase wages, and compete at a global level. This is how you grow an economy from the ground up.

Let's vote for our constituents today—do it for that middle-income family of four, or the single mother of three—and pass this bill today. All of us have an obligation to simplify the tax code for every American—with lower rates—so it's easier for hardworking people to file their taxes and have the peace of mind they deserve.

It's been 31 years, and the relief can't come soon enough.

PROCLAMATION FOR DAISAKU AND KANEKO IKEDA

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda.

Whereas, August 24, 1947 is the day a young Daisaku Ikeda joined the Soka Gakkai and began his unerring pursuit of global peace with his revered teacher Josei Toda, and in these succeeding 70 years has created a global, grass-roots network of 12 million peace building citizens in 192 countries and territories, conducted peace building citizen-diplomacy with world leaders during the Cold War, authored hundreds of books providing hope and encouragement, conducted dialogues on substantive issues of the day with thousands of leaders around the world, submitted annual peace proposals to the United Nations for 35 years, and established numerous research institutes aimed at conflict resolution and intercultural dialogue and understanding; and

Whereas, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, in his roles as philosopher, educator, peace-builder and author, has dedicated his life to constructing bridges of understanding between people of different nations and cultures, and between diverse philosophical and faith traditions, and personified this philosophy in his own activities as a firm advocate for dialogue as the basis for resolving conflicts and building peace; and

Whereas, Dr. Ikeda has established the Soka education schools around the world, including Soka University of America (SUA) in Orange County, California, to promote humanistic education that stimulates and encourages each student's unique potential for learning, and empowers their lifelong growth and development toward contributive living and peace-building; and